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Honorable Espionage III

BY MICHAEL J. BARRETT

t is true for all professions, including intelligence, that love of money is the root of all evil. Some of the most noteworthy scandals in the history of the intelligence profession have occurred because someone was unable to resist the temptation of large sums of money. I would like to be able to say that the U.S. intelligence professional is better able to resist this particular temptation than his communist counterparts, but I cannot vouch for the accuracy of that statement, particularly in light of the advice purportedly given by the KGB to its intelligence officers. A "top secret" KGB training manual entitled, "The Practice of Recruiting Americans in the USA and Third Countries," published by the "First Chief Directorate of the KGB under the Council of Ministers, USSR," and edited by "Col. A.I. Avdeyev," instructs the KGB trainee that "correct use of the factor of material interest first of all re-

quires an understanding of the psychological makeup of the American, who soberly regards money as the sole means of ensuring personal freedom and independence, of making it possible for him to satisfy his material and spiritual needs. In the average American, this attitude toward money engenders an indifference to the means by which it is obtained, although sometimes involving risk."

It would be easier to rebuff the Soviet's cynical view of

American integrity if it were not for the recurring cases of em-

bezzlement by U.S. officials. A recent example is the case of vet-

eran CIA officer Peter Philip Kapusta, who pleaded guilty in

March 1983 to charges that he falsified expense account records

for funds used in an intelligence operation. In the same month, retired U.S. Air Force Gen. Richard B. Collins was indicted by a Fort Lauderdale federal grand jury on six counts of embezzlement. He allegedly had taken unspecified amounts of air force money intended for CIA and military intelligence activities overseas and diverted it for his own purposes. More particularly, he was accused of having removed \$445,000 from a government account in Geneva, Switzerland, and transferring it into his own account. This, of course, is nothing new. In 1936, Maj. Hugh Reginald Dalton of the British colony in Holland committed suicide. When investigators audited his books, they

found that Dalton, an intelligence officer in the British Secret In-

telligence Service, had misplaced substantial sums of govern-

ment money issued to him for operational use. Every profes-

sion, in every country, has been subject to the same temptation;

Michael Barrett is an assistant general counsel with the Central Intelligence Agency. This article is the last of three on the legal and moral status of the intelligence profession in a free society.

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